

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method in the computer system for correlating a subset of attributes to one or more payloads, the method comprising:

obtaining a request for payload corresponding to a subset of client attributes;

obtaining one or more payloads, wherein each payload defines a condition statement for delivering the payload;

correlating the condition statement into a catalog, wherein the catalog includes an attribute list, an evaluator list, a value list and a payload list;

traversing the catalog to determine one or more payloads corresponding to the subset of client attributes; and

returning the one or more payloads.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of correlating the condition statement into a catalog includes:

generating an expression tree corresponding to the condition statement;

mapping the expression tree into an evaluation tree; and

mapping the evaluation tree into the catalog.

3. The method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising optimizing the expression tree prior to mapping the expression tree into an evaluation tree.

4. The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein the step of optimizing the expression tree includes:

organizing the expression tree such that an attribute evaluator value expression is a leaf node and a connector is a tree node;

scoring any tree nodes, wherein a disjunctive tree node score equals the sum of its subtree, wherein a conjunctive tree node score equals the product of its subtree, and wherein each leaf node score equals one; and

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placing a lowest scoring leaf node as a topmost node of the evaluation tree;

6. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the step of mapping the session tree into the catalog includes:

storing one or more values corresponding to each of the first attribute evaluators in a value list;

if any payloads exist, storing one or more payloads corresponding to the first attribute value.

8. The method as recited in Claim 6 further comprising repeating the steps ing data in the attribute list, the evaluator list, the conjunction list, and the value a second attribute in the evaluation tree.

10. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the attribute list is a master attribute list having a size less than all the possible attributes.

- obtaining a first attribute from the subset of client attributes;
- if the first attribute is found in the attribute list, obtaining an evaluator from the evaluator list and a value from the value list, wherein the evaluator and value form an evaluator/value set;
- if the first attribute satisfies the evaluator/value set, determining whether a conjunction and a payload exist;
- if a conjunction exists, repeating the steps with a corresponding attribute identified in the conjunction; and
- if a payload exists, adding the payload to a master payload list.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the repeating step is done on a separate catalog data structure.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in any one of Claims 1-14.

16. A computer system having a processor, a memory, and an operating environment, the computer system operable for performing the steps recited in any one of Claims 1-14.

17. A method in a computer system for correlating a payload with a subset of attributes for selecting a payload set, the method comprising:

generating an expression tree having multiple levels corresponding to the subset of attributes:

mapping the expression tree into an evaluation tree; and
correlating the expression tree into the catalog.

18. The method as recited in Claim 17 further comprising optimizing the expression tree prior to mapping the expression tree into an evaluation tree.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18, wherein the step of optimizing the expression tree includes:

organizing the expression tree such that each attribute expression is a leaf node on each connector is a tree node;

scoring the expression tree, wherein each disjunctive tree node score equals the sum of its subtree, wherein each conjunctive tree node score equals the product of its subtree, and wherein each leaf node score equals one; and

for each level of the expression tree, organizing nodes such that a right-most node has the highest score.

20. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the step of mapping the expression tree to an evaluation tree includes:

placing a lowest scoring leaf node as the topmost node of the valuation tree;

placing conjunctive operations as right tree nodes;

placing disjunctive operations as left tree nodes; and

traversing the expression tree mapped into the evaluation tree.

21. The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the step of correlating the expression tree into a catalog includes:

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storing a first attribute in the attribute list;
storing one or more evaluators corresponding to the first attribute in evaluator list;
storing one or more values corresponding to each of the one or more first attribute evaluators in the value list;
if any conjunctions exist, storing one or more identifications of attributes corresponding to the first attribute; and
if any payloads exist, storing one or more payloads corresponding to the first attribute.

22. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps recited in any one of Claims 17-21.

23. A computer system having a processor and memory in an operating environment, the computer system for performing the steps recited in any one of Claims 17-21.

24. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules for correlating payloads with a condition statement for delivering the payload, the modules comprising:

a master attribute module for storing a list of attributes;
an evaluator module, dynamically linked to the attribute module, and containing evaluators corresponding to each attribute in the attribute list;
a value module, dynamically linked to the evaluator module, and containing values corresponding to each evaluator in the evaluation module;
a payload module, dynamically linked to the value module, and containing payload sets corresponding to each value in the value module, wherein the payload module may be empty; and
a conjunction module dynamically linked to the value module and containing conjunction sets corresponding to each value in the value module, wherein the conjunction list may be empty.

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